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The arrival of *Phyllonorycter platani* and *P. leucographella* (Lep.: Gracillariidae) in Reading

I have been looking out for *Phyllonorycter platani* (Stgdr.) and for *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Zell.) in my local area since finding mines of the former in London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*, at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society at South Kensington, London on 22 October 1994, and of the latter in firethorn *Pyracantha* sp. in my parents' garden at Wickford in Essex on 22 April 1989 (about two weeks after its discovery in this area by M. Emmet, although for some time I believed the moths I reared from these pod-like mines to be unusual varieties of *P. corylifoliella* (Hb.)).

At a field meeting I led at Ashley Hill Forest, Knowl Hill near Maidenhead, Berkshire on 27 October 1996 I heard rumour that both these species had been seen that year in the Reading area. Subsequently I discovered the unmistakable mines of *P. platani* in plane leaves on sapling trees outside the main train station in Reading on 5 January 1997. One leaf contained four mines, a second contained two. On arriving back at my house on the same day I noticed the characteristic early mines of *P. leucographella* over the mid-rib of three firethorn leaves on a bush growing at the end of my road. Since then, the number of mined leaves on this bush has increased to 15, despite the bush having been pruned by its owners in February. This exercise removed two of the three leaves noted as mined on 5 January.

I also noted mines of *P. platani* in plane leaves lying in the High Street of Marlow, Buckinghamshire on 14 December 1996, but have not seen evidence of this species yet in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (10 March 1997), despite looking for it.— I. SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3AN.